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In a previous request for information, I asked if full-time temporary faculty were eligible to vote in faculty senate and university committee elections.

Submitted by Jim Harris

2/29/2008

**Question:**

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In a previous request for information, I asked if full-time temporary faculty were eligible to vote in faculty senate and university committee elections. The answer from President Grube was that full-time temporary faculty could vote in senate elections. President Grube did not comment on elections concerning whether or not full-time temporary faculty could vote for college representatives on university committees, but the rationale given in the reply to my previous request for information was that "the voting lists are the same and therefore full-time temporary faculty are eligible to vote in for university committees".

Question1: If at some point in time the lists are different, does that mean full-time temporary faculty cannot vote for college representatives on university committees? I am asking that President Grube please comment on this matter.

Question2: Does this mean that full-time temporary faculty are also eligible to vote on college matters (such as college bylaw changes, college curricula, and college P&T committee membership) or can voting membership at the college level be determined by the individual colleges?

Question 3: Does this mean that full-time faculty are also eligible to vote at the departmental level (on say, departmental curriculum matters or departmental P&T committee makeup) or can that be determined by the individual departments?

**Rationale:**

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The CIT and COBA bylaws currently restrict voting membership to "tenure and tenure track faculty only". This matter needs to be resolved before we can vote in CIT college and departmental meetings.

### **Senate Response:**

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The second RFI came from Jim Harris and revisits an issue that came up last fall, regarding who is and who is not faculty, according to the Board of Regents. A reading of the BOR Policies and our own policies on campus led to the determination that not only are tenured faculty members, tenured and tenure-track faculty members considered faculty, but full-time temporaries are also considered faculty for the purposes of voting in University elections, whether for the senate or university-level committees.

The current RFI asks President Grube to address the issue at the college and departmental levels, whether full-time temporary faculty are eligible to vote for college representatives or to vote in college and departmental matters. Moderator Cyr turned the floor over to President Grube to answer.

Dr. Bruce Grube (President) said, that if the senate wishes to forward him a recommendation on this he would be pleased to interpret the rules as he is authorized to do. But since he gathered that the request arose from a particular instance of disagreement among colleagues in a given area, he would prefer that the colleagues resolve among themselves, first, and if that doesn't work, and it comes to the level that would require the attention of the senate, then we can deal with it at the time. He repeated his preference that colleagues in disagreement with each other first spend some good, honest time trying to resolve their differences before involving the President.

Dr. Marc Cyr (CLASS) Senate Moderator clarified that the issue is in CIT and COBA, where their college bylaws specifically exclude full-time temporaries from taking part in votes or recommendations, which appears to be in conflict with University-level and from the BOR policies.

See also [Who Can Vote in Elections](#)  
[Eligibility memo from Dr. Grube](#)